



SUMMER AT ENCOUNTER

THE FINE ART OF WALKING IN THE DARK

August 22, 2021

Chuckk Gerwig

MESSAGE NOTES

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the Word that sustains the weary. — Isaiah 50:4

1. The Walk in the Dark

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the Word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from My hand: You will lie down in torment. — Isaiah 50:10 – 11

Two dangers in the dark ...

Feeling of abandonment are common

At the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ... "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" — Mark 15:33 – 34

God can see in the Dark

Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. — Psalm 139:12

2. The Way Forward - Trusting & Relying

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the Word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. — Isaiah 50:10

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. — Psalm 20:7

Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You. — Psalm 9:10

3. The Warning: Fire Starting

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the Word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. — Isaiah 50:10

But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment. — Isaiah 50:11



Application

1. Examine Yourself

- How am I Trusting in the name or not?
- How am I Relying / Leaning in Jesus, or not?
- Have I been running in the dark?
- Have I lit my own torch and proceeding without God, compromised?
- Jesus, Is there something I need to do or stop doing today?

2. Engage the Bible

*Your Word is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** for my **path**. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that **I will follow** Your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, O LORD, according to Your Word. — Psalm 119:105 – 107*

3. Internalize the Truth

*Those who know Your name will trust in You, for you, LORD, have **never forsaken** those **who seek** You. — Psalm 9:10*

4. Walk in Community



DISCUSSION

1. Where were you in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake? What did you experience?
2. Describe a past season of uncertainty or darkness in your life.
 - What were the things that helped sustain you during that time?
 - What would you have done differently?
 - What was the outcome?
3. As a group, rewrite this passage with totally different words.
 - *Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.*
— Psalm 139:12
4. What are things you know to be true about God that could be encouraging to another person during a time of great uncertainty and fear?
5. Psalm 9:10, *Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You.*
 - What are several passages or stories in the Bible that you could point to that show this concept is true?
6. Psalm 119:105 – 112, *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it that I will follow Your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, O LORD, according to Your Word. Accept, O LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me Your laws. Though constantly I take my life in my hands, I will not forget Your law. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from Your precepts. Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping Your decrees to the very end.*
 - What was the psalmist's "plan" for dealing with the season of suffering he was facing?
 - What does it mean that the psalmist "took an oath to follow God's decrees"?
7. Self-Examination:
Take some silent time to ask yourself these questions. Share if you dare!
 - How am I trusting in the name or not?
 - How am I relying upon / "leaning" on Jesus ... or not?
 - Have I been running in the dark?
 - Have I lit my own torch and proceeding without God, compromised?
 - Jesus, is there something I need to do or stop doing today?
8. Memory Verse —
 - Psalm 9:10, *Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You.*
9. Prayer: What is a difficult or uncertain situation in your life that you need prayer for today? Pray for them as a group.